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NPIC/R-1/63

DECLASS REVIEW BY NIMA / DoD

POSSIBLE ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE LAUNCH AREA
SEMIPALATINSK, USSR

PREFACE

This report, prepared under NPIC Project JN-179/62 in answer to CIA requirements DDI/OSI R-154, 62 and DDI/OSI R-243/62, presents information on the Possible Antiballistic Missile (ABM) Launch Area, Semipalatinsk, USSR, derived from a study of KEYHOLE photography

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SUMMARY

The two circular sites under construction about 70 nautical miles (nm) from Semipalatinsk have been classified as possible ABM facilities because they contain features similar to Sites 3 and 4 at Sary Shagan Launch Complex A. The following factors have been taken into consideration in arriving at this conclusion:

Sary Shagan Sites 3 and 4 have previously been identified as probable ABM sites.

The time differential with regard to con-

struction at the two facilities precludes a close comparison of the sites.

However, general similarities are apparent between the two installations, and Semipalatinsk more nearly resembles Sary Shagan than other known SAM systems.

Nevertheless, numerous specific differences in components are evident, possibly because of the construction time differential.

INTRODUCTION

A possible ABM launch area, under construction, is located 68 nm west-northwest of Semipalatinsk at 50-43N 78-37E (Figure 1)

bank of the Irtysh River.

This installation was first positively identified on photography from KEYHOLE Mission

which provided good-quality coverage (Figure 3). It was subsequently observed on photography of poor image quality from Mission . Indications of the presence of this installation appeared earlier on photography from Mission . The area, however, was snow covered at that time.

LAYOUT OF FACILITIES

The possible ABM launch facility consists of a generally rectangular, probably secured, area measuring 2,800 by 2,000 feet. It is road served. Two possible launch sites, linear ground scarring, a linear excavation, and at least one building are located within the area (item numbers and annotations are keyed to Figure 2).

The two possible launch sites (item 1) are each approximately 500 feet in diameter. Separated center-to-center by a distance of 650 feet, they are aligned in a northwest-southeast direction. Both sites consist of linear ground scars radiating from a road-served central

position and terminating in cleared areas. There are six radiating scars at the northwest site and five at the southeast site. These radials range from 180 to 235 feet in length and vary in width. They may be roads and/or cable scars. The variations in photographic tone along the radials may indicate the presence of small objects such as vehicles or structures. A ground scar, possibly a road, encircles each site (item 2). Another ground scar connects the extremities of two radials on the northwest site. A ground scar possibly involving some excavation is located between the two sites (item 3).

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On the north side of the southeast site is a linear excavation of varying depth measuring approximately 190 by 40 feet (item 4). This excavation, with its accompanying construction activity, obliterates the sixth radial. The presence of a spoilpile near the excavation may indicate backfilling. No ramps can be associated with the excavation.

Northeast of the sites and across the service road is a square ground pattern measuring approximately 320 feet on each side (item 5). Two sides have extensions, one to the north and one to the east, which terminate in small clearings.

Track activity from the service road terminates at a heavily scarred area within the pattern.

A building measuring approximately 100 by 50 feet is located on the northeast side of the possible launch sites and adjacent to the service road (item 6). This building is connected by road with the center of each launch site. Several other structures are discernible.

One nm northwest of the possible launch area is a high-frequency receiving station. First observed on TALENT Mission [redacted] this receiving station is connected by road to the possible launch area and may be related to this facility. (For a detailed discussion of the receiving station, see CIA/PIR/1003/62.) 1/

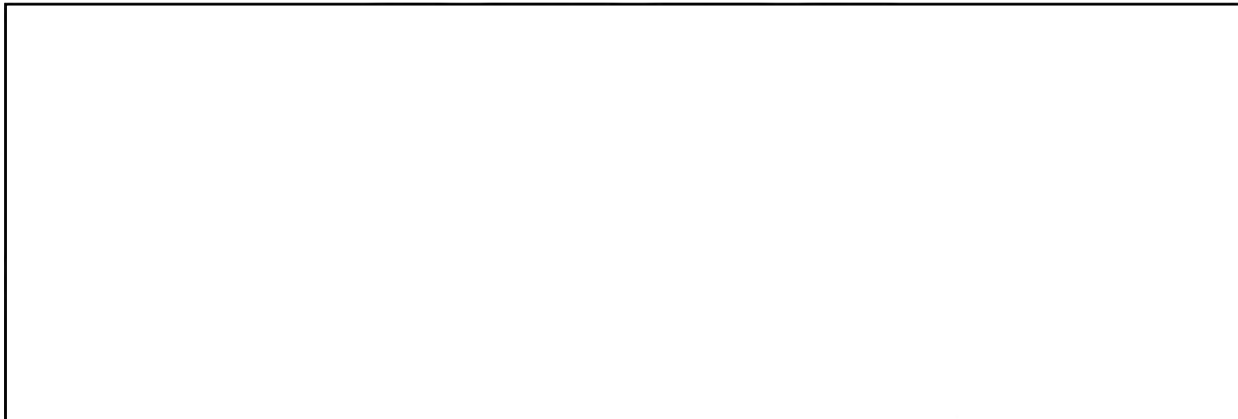
About 1,850 feet north of the possible launch sites is a heavily scarred pear-shaped area measuring approximately 450 by 300 feet (item 7). This area does not appear to be related to the operation of the possible launch sites.

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. WAC 238, 4th ed, Jun 56, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

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DOCUMENTS

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1. CIA. PIR-1003 '62, High Frequency Receiving Station, Semiyarskoye, USSR, Sep 62 (SECRET)

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2. CIA. PIC/JR-1010 61, Antimissile Complex, Sary Shagan, USSR, Apr 61 (SECRET, Noform [redacted]
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3. PIC JR-3 61, Antimissile Test Complex, Sary Shagan, USSR, Changes [redacted] Apr 61 (TOP SECRET
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4. NPIC. R-21 '62, Antimissile Test Center, Sary Shagan, USSR, Changes and Additions [redacted] Feb 62
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5. NPIC. R-135, '62, Antimissile Missile Activity in the USSR, Oct 62 (TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF)

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